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EDITORIAL NOTES.

Dr. C. Berg has been called to the chair of botany in the University of Buenos Ayres.

A chair of bacteriology is to be established at the college of the Sarbonne at Paris.

A life-size statue of Charles Darwin has just been placed in the great hall of the British Museum.

The first bacteria ever seen were observed by Leeuwenhoek in 1683 in the white substance adhering to his teeth.

The Spanish government has prohibited inoculation for cholera in districts where the disease has not yet appeared.

Professor V. M. Spalding, of the University of Michigan, has leave of absence for a year's study in the botanical laboratories of Germany.

Dr. George M. Sternberg has gone to Europe at the request of the Department of State to attend the meeting of the Sanitary Council at Rome, held during June.

Professor A. N. Prentiss, of Cornell University, sailed for Europe on June 20, to recuperate and make some botanical observations during the summer vacation.

Recent numbers of the *Gardeners' Chronicle* have been almost entirely devoted to orchids. A supplement gives the geographical distribution of all known genera, with a map.

A small book has been published in Germany by Johne on the details of the cultivation of Koch's cholera bacillus, and the very similar bacillus of Finkler, and has already reached a second edition.

At the recent cholera conference at Berlin there was much discussion regarding the bacteria connected with the disease, but each disputant appeared to hold the same views at the close as at the beginning.

The best work on the germs in the air with methods of investigation is Miquel's *Des organismes vivants de l'atmosphère*, published in 1883. The author carries on his researches at the Montsouris Observatory near Paris.

The observations of Professor Trelease on the relations of some cecidomyid larvæ to parasitic fungi, published last year in *Psyche*, have been confirmed and extended by Dr. Fr. Thomas, of Thüringia, as we learn from *Irmischia.*

An Italian investigator, C. Comes, considers that the gummosis of mulberry trees is due to the alteration of the starch and young tissues by a specific form of bacteria, identical, however, with what he believes to be the cause of gumming in the peach, cherry, etc.

S. Korschinsky has observed, according to the *Botaniches Centralblatt*, that the leaves of *Lactuca Scariola* only assume the meridianal position when growing exposed to strong sunlight, and that *Tanacetum vulgare* in the same situations directs its leaves toward the source of light, but without taking the meridian. He thinks the difference is due to the more flexible tissues in *Tanacetum*, which permit the leaves to constantly change position, while in *Lactuca* the firmer tissues hold them rigid.

TELL Messrs. J. U. and C. G. Lloyd, of Cincinnati, Ohio, whether the following plants grow in your locality, and how abundantly: Coptis trifolia, Xanthorrhiza apiifolia, Aconitum uncinatum, Actæa alba, Actæa rubra, var. spicata, Cimicifuga Americana, Cimicifuga racemosa.

THE VERY EXTENSIVE library and herbarium of Mr. I. C. Martindale, of Camden, N. J., are for sale. The editors' opinion of their value and completeness has already been expressed. (See vol. ix., p. 163.) Any individual or institution that secures them will indeed secure a treasure.

A CATALOGUE of the fungi of Italy by P. A. Saccardo and A. N. Berlese, issued not long since, enumerates 6403 species distributed in seventeen orders. The smallest order is the *Entomophthoreæ* containing only the one species, *E. Muscæ*, and the largest the *Pyrenomyceteæ* with 1515 species. Other interesting orders are the *Uredineæ* with 340, *Myxomyceteæ* with 91, and *Schizomyceteæ*, or bacteria, with 64 species. Although this is a large list the authors yet regret that, owing to parts of the country being unexplored, it is still quite incomplete.

AN INTERNATIONAL Botanical and Horticultural Congress is to be held in Anvers, Belgium, August 1–10. The subject which will take the most prominent place in the discussion will be the botanical exploration of the Congo, which means the interior of Africa. Belgium is wide awake in these matters, and supported by an intelligent and interested sovereign the work can be well done. A liberal invitation is extended to foreign botanists, but while papers will be presented in six of the principal languages, of course the discussion will be conducted entirely in French.

THE ILLUSTRATION of the action on gelatine of the real and pseudo "comma bacillus" of cholera, given in a recent number of *Science*, with the cuts of the bacilli themselves by Dr. Sternberg in an earlier number of the same journal, brings this strange controversy graphically before American readers; a bitter partisan controversy, in which non-investigators have poor chance to form a correct opinion. It will doubtless be settled after the manner of the famous spontaneous generation controversy—by refined practical experience after due lapse of time.

PROBABLY FEW SUBJECTS have advanced so rapidly and to such important proportions as that of bacteriology. Ten years ago we had scarcely heard of it, to-day many of the first universities of Europe have established chairs devoted to the subject, while a number of institutions have been created for its exclusive consideration; there are besides several government commissions and hundreds of private investigators. On the other hand it has revolutionized some of the departments of medicine and surgery, is a constant theme in sanitary science, and has become an important factor in the daily life of every individual.

An Orchid Exhibition, under direction of the Royal Horticultural Society, was held in the conservatory at South Kensington, London, on the 12th and 13th of May. Sixty-one genera were represented. There were many specimens shown in fruit and numerous hybrids. Some of these hybrids were bi-generic. Three such have been raised and borne flowers, and others have been propagated, but have not yet flowered. How these bi-generic crosses will affect the stability of genera as at present circumscribed, is a conundrum which was propounded but not answered at the Orchid Conference with which the exhibition was connected.

Bryn Mawr College, a new institution for the higher education of women, situated near Philadelphia, is to be opened in September. No pains have been spared to place the college on a firm foundation, and it promises to be a specially notable institution. Miss Emily L. Gregory, a graduate of Cornell University, has been appointed to the chair of botany. Immediately upon graduating in 1881 Miss Gregory went abroad, and studied under Prof. Wigand at Marburg, Prof. Reinke at Göttingen and Prof. Schwendener at Berlin. Returning to this country in 1883 she studied in Prof. Goodale's laboratory at Harvard, also taking charge of the laboratory work of the Harvard Annex. In 1884 she was appointed teacher of botany in Smith College, and shortly after received her present appointment at Bryn Mawr. She at once sailed for Europe to continue her studies under Prof. Schwendener, and will shortly go to Zürich to remain until the opening of the college in September. The curriculum of the College is in many respects modeled after that of the Johns Hopkins University. The course drawn up for botany reflects the thought and thorough preparation which Miss Gregory has given her subject.

The prospects for an interesting gathering of botanists at Ann Arbor in August are excellent. Western botanists may be specially expected in force. The city of Ann Arbor is a delightful place in which to spend a week, even in the hottest weather, and at the worst no such discomfort can be experienced as was felt at Philadelphia last year. The meetings will not be disturbed by the rumbling of vehicles over the pavements, the distances will be short and through shady avenues, and altogether the outlook for the physical comforts is entirely satisfactory. The programme for the special entertainment of the Botanical Club is not yet definitely arranged, but as heretofore there will be short excursions for collecting, an evening reception, and similar social privileges to besugar the dry crusts of science, and promote that most valuable feature of these gatherings—personal acquaintance and the interchange of ideas. Neither the scenery nor flora immediately about Ann Arbor are striking. It is largely "oak openings," woodland interrupted with open ground, yielding only about 850 species of flowering plants and ferns within a radius of four miles. There are, however, several of the Michigan "catholes" within reach, in which one finds *Arethusa*, *Sarracenia*, *Andromeda*, *Menyanthes*, *Drosera* and other swamp plants. The Huron river runs through the lower part of the city and furnishes the usual supply of water plants. An examination of this part of the flora from a sanitary point of view will have a special local interest as water works are soon to be established with the water supply from this source. The free excursion to the Saginaw valley will give the botanists a favorable opportunity to see the characteristic flora of Michigan. The steamer excursion, after adjournment, to Mackinac island and Sault Ste. Marie promises to be one of the most delightful ever offered the association. Every botanist who can command the time should certainly go, as the flora of that region is characteristic and specially interesting, the trip inexpensive, and the social and physical pleasures all that can be desired. The trip may be made in three or four days, but more time can be profitably spent. With such a favorable prospect it is safe to predict a most enjoyable and successful meeting, with a fair probability that the botanists will hold their recently gained vantage of ten per cent. of the total attendance.

CURRENT LITERATURE.

Louis Pasteur, His Life and Labors. By his son-in-law. Translated from the French by Lady Claud Hamilton. D. Appleton & Co., New York, 1885. 8° Pp. xlii, 300.

Every reader must be charmed with this work. Its enthusiastic portraiture of the successes of a remarkable man, a man who does not tolerate failure, the glowing account of his devotion to the work of his life, the pertinacity with which he defends his views against all opponents, and the great pecuniary and commercial value of his discoveries, invest the work with more than usual interest. The chapter on the silkworm disease reads like a romance, ending with that sad stroke of paralysis which so nearly cost the hero his life. The silkworm disease had gradually reduced the silk industry of France till it yielded barely one-fifth the usual revenue, and, as many districts were largely dependent upon this source of maintenance, its failure entailed the greatest poverty and suffering upon the inhabitants. It was at the close of the famous controversy on spontaneous generation, in which Pasteur was so signally triumphant, that he undertook to solve the problem of this mysterious disease. We can not follow him through the successive steps of the difficult investigation to the final restoration of wealth and prosperity to the silkworm districts, but can assure the reader that the story is so fascinatingly told that whoever begins it is not likely to lay the book down before its completion.

The other great subjects of Pasteur's studies—fermentation, studies of wine and beer, splenic fever, fowl cholera, hydrophobia—are almost equally interesting. But it is only possible in this notice to call attention to the general nature of the work. The casual reader will find few technicalities to detract from the smoothness of the narrative, while to the student of bacteriology it is suggestive and stimulating. The value of the work is much enhanced by the admirable introduction by Professor Tyndall.

Micro-organisms and Disease, an Introduction into the Study of Specific Micro-organisms. By E. Klein, M. D., F. R. S. 2d ed. Macmillan & Co., London, 1885. Small 12°. Pp. 201. Illustrated.

Among the numerous works on pathogenic bacteria, which are being so rapidly turned out, this small book deserves an important position. The author is an experienced investigator who knows of what he writes, having been employed by the English government for many years to conduct such studies. The work opens with several concise but well written chapters on the examination